1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



## CHAP. VI.

### *Of the* LAND ANIMALS.

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THE principal riches of *Kamtſchatka* conſiſt in the great number of wild beaſts: among which are foxes, ſables, ſtone foxes, hares, marmottas, ermins, weaſels, wolves, rein-deer wild and tame, and ſtone rams. Their fox ſkins in the thickneſs, length, and beauty of their hair equal, if not excel, all the foxes of *Siberia*; beſides there are in *Kamtſchatka* almoſt all the different ſpecies of foxes which are to be found in other places, ſuch as the red, fiery, blue-breaſted, or marked with a black croſs, the cheſnut, black cheſnut, and the like; and ſometimes white foxes are found there, but theſe very ſeldom. It is remarkable, that the more valuable foxes are the moſt cunning; ſuch are the black cheſnut, the blue-breaſted, and the fiery coloured; ſo that not only the *Kamtſchadales*, but even the *Ruſſians* find it difficult to catch them. It happened while I was at *Kamtſchatka*, that the Coſſacks tried for two winters to catch one black fox which frequented the Great River, without being able to effect it. The moſt uſual method of taking them is either by poiſon, traps, or bows. The poiſon is thrown in lumps in the freſh tracts; the traps are ſet upon the ſides of hills, baited with a live animal; and for the greater ſecurity two or three of the traps are placed upon one hillock, that whatever way the foxes approach they may fall into one of them; and this is found neceſſary, for thoſe, which have been once in danger from the ſtroke of this trap, proceed afterwards ſo cautiouſly, that they eat the bait without being ſeiſed; but, with all their cunning, it is difficult for them to eſcape the

224
177

ſeveral

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



224 177 ſeveral traps, which ſeize them ſometimes by the head, and ſometimes by the foot. The method of killing them with the bow is thus: the hunters muſt know exactly how high to place it; when the bow is bent, it is faſtened to a ſtake driven into the earth near which the fox's tract is obſerved, and then a cord drawn from the bow-ſtring, is ſtretched very tight over his ordinary path; and ſo ſoon as this cord is touched with the foot of the fox, the bow is diſcharged, and the arrow pierces the very heart. Theſe are the inventions of the *Ruſſian* Coſſacks; for formerly the *Kamtſchadales* gave themſelves no trouble about the foxes, not valuing their furrs much more than dogs' ſkins. They pretend they could have killed as many as they wanted with ſticks, and that foxes were formerly ſo numerous in *Kamtſchatka*, that when they fed their dogs, they were obliged to 136 224 drive them away from the trough: and though this may ſeem improbable, yet it is certain, that even now they are in great plenty near the forts, which at night they enter without any ſeeming apprehenſion of danger from the dogs of the country, which either cannot catch them, or, not being bred to it, do not mind them. It happened when I was there, that one of the inhabitants catched ſeveral of them in the pit where they keep their fiſh. The beſt time to hunt foxes is, when the earth is hard frozen, before the ſnow falls, as it is then difficult for them to dig out the rats' neſts, which they do when the earth is thawed, the rats 224 286 being their chief ſupport. The *Kuriles*, who live upon the *Lopatka*, catch foxes in a manner peculiar to themſelves. They have a net made of the hair of whales' beards, compoſed of ſeveral rings; this is ſpread upon the ground, and to a ring in the middle they bind a magpye; round the net is drawn a cord, the ends of which are held by a perſon concealed in a pit near at hand, who, when the fox ſprings upon the bird, draws the cord and gathers together the net, which ſurrounds the fox as the drag net does a fiſh.

The

l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



The ſables of *Kamtſchatka* excel all other ſables of *Siberia*, both in largeneſs, thickneſs of hair, and brightneſs; but in point of blackneſs they do not come up to thoſe of *Olekmine* and *Vitime*: however their other properties are ſo valuable, that the *Kamtſchatka* ſables have by much the preference; and in *China*, where they know how to improve the colour, fetch ſo great a price that few of them are brought into *Ruſſia*. The ſables of *Tegbil* and *Oukine* are moſt eſteemed, and are ſometimes ſold for thirty rubles a pair. Mr. *Steller* ſays, that the worſt are hunted about the *Lopatka* and *Kurilſkoy* ſeas. It often happens that the worſt kind of ſables ſhall have their tails ſo black and thick haired, that they will ſell dearer than any other.

Before the conqueſt of *Kamtſchatka* there was ſo great a plenty of ſables that one hunter would kill ſeventy or eighty in a year; and that not for the ſake of the furr, but the fleſh, which they eſteem very delicious. The inhabitants at that time willingly agreed to pay their tribute in ſables; and were glad to receive a knife for eight, and an ax for eighteen. Some merchants have gained in one year by furrs only more than thirty thouſand rubles. The ſables are ſtill in much greater plenty here than in any other country, as is obſerved by every one who has been upon the ſpot, and compared their tracts upon the ſnow with what are ſeen either upon the rivers *Lena* or *Beloy*, and this even in the neighbourhood of the forts. And if the people of *Kamtſchatka* were as induſtrious in hunting as thoſe about the *Lena*, they could ſell a great many more than they; but ſuch is their natural lazineſs, that they never kill more than what they muſt pay in tribute, and what will pay their debts. They look upon him as an extraordinary good hunter that kills ſix or ſeven ſables in a winter; and ſeveral are not able to furniſh their tribute furrs, but muſt borrow either from the *Ruſſian* Coſſacks, or ſome more induſtrious hunter of

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



224 their own country, to whom for payment they are bound to
426 work the whole enſuing ſummer. Their baggage when they go
185 to hunt conſiſts of a net, a bow and arrows, a fire-ſteel with
461 flint and tinder. When they find a ſable concealed either in the earth or under the root of ſome tree, they throw the net over the place, in which he entangles himſelf when he comes out. With the bow and arrows they ſhoot them when they fly to the trees; and the ſteel and flint are to ſtrike fire, by which they ſmoke them, and drive them out of their holes. The beſt hunters, to be nearer the game, go out with their whole families to the hills, where they build huts and live the whole winter.

224 Although the ſtone foxes, and hares, abound in *Kamtſchatka*,
237 yet hardly any one thinks it worth his trouble to hunt them,
136 their furrs being of ſmall value; and when they fall into the fox traps, they uſe their ſkins as coverings in their beds. The *Kamtſchatka* ſtone foxes are little better than the hares of *Tourouchan*, which are very bad, the hair eaſily falling off. *Steller* relates, that ſome uſed to ſew the tails of the ſtone foxes to the hare-ſkins of *Tourouchan*, and impoſe them upon the ignorant as true ſtone fox-ſkins, the thickneſs of the ſkin and furr making it difficult to diſcover the cheat.

Marmottas * abound every where in *Kamtſchatka*. The *Koreki* uſe their ſkins for cloaths; and, indeed, they are reckoned no ordinary dreſs, being both light and warm. *Steller* compares
136 the furrs made of the backs of the marmottas to the ſpotted feathers of birds, eſpecially if ſeen at a diſtance; and he alſo ſays, that this animal is found both upon the continent and the

* Marmota minor. GMEL.

iſlands

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



ſlands of *America*. When they eat, they ſit upon their hind legs like a ſquirrel, and hold their food, which is roots, berries, and cedar nuts, with their fore feet. They are pretty to look at, and whiſtle ſurpriſingly loud. No body thinks 1his while to hunt ermines *, weaſels †, or common marmottas ‡, unleſs by chance they meet with them; ſo that one cannot reckon ermines amongſt the furrs of *Kamtſchatka*. But there is a creature of the weaſel kind, called the glutton ‖, whoſe furr is ſo greatly eſteemed above all others, that when they would deſcribe a man moſt richly attired, they ſay that he is cloathed with the furr of the glutton. The women of *Kamtſchatka* dreſs their hair with the white paws of this animal, and reckon them a very great ornament. However, the *Kamtſchadales* kill ſo few of them, that they not only have not enough for exportation, but even import ſome from *Jakutſki* at a very great price. They put the greater value upon the furr of the glutton the whiter and yellower it is, although every where elſe this ſort is deſpiſed: nay, they eſteem it ſo much, that they ſay the heavenly beings wear no other garments than of this furr; nor can they make their wives or miſtreſſes a greater preſent than of one of theſe ſkins, which was formerly ſold for thirty, and even ſixty rubles; and for the two paws which the women wear in their hair, they ſometimes give one, and ſometimes two ſea beavers. The greateſt number of theſe gluttons is found near *Karaga*, *Andirſka*, and *Kolima*. They have a ſurpriſing dexte-

136 224 825 237 301 291 825 435 136

* Ermineum majus. Gmel.
† Ermineum minor. Ejuſdem.
‡ Marmotta vulgaris. Ejuſdem.
‖ Muſtela rufo-fuſca, medio dorſi nigro. Linn.



1 [Original torn. Probably "it worth" rity

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



eſpecially when they gather berries. Sometimes, indeed, the bears eat up the berries which the women have gathered, and this is the only injury they do them.

In the ſeaſon, when the fiſh enter the mouths of the rivers in vaſt ſhoals, great numbers of bears come down from the hills, and ſettle in proper places for catching them; which they do in ſuch plenty, that they only eat and ſuck the bones of the heads, neglecting the bodies; but when this plenty is paſt, they are glad to gnaw the bones which they formerly deſpiſed. They frequently ſteal fiſh from the fiſhing huts of the Coſſacks, although there is always a woman left to watch them. To her indeed they never do any hurt, ſatisfying themſelves with what fiſh they can find.

Before the introduction of fire-arms, they uſed ſeveral devices for killing the bears. Cutting ſeveral billets of wood, they ſtop up the mouth of the den with them, which the bear draws in that his paſſage may not be ſhut up. This they continue until he is ſo ſtraitened in his den that he cannot turn himſelf; then they dig down from above, and kill him with their ſpears. The *Koreki*, in order to catch the bears, ſeek out ſome tree that is crooked above, upon which they faſten a ſnare, and behind it place ſome proper bait; which the bear endeavouring to ſeize is held faſt by the head or the paw. They place heavy logs of wood, in ſuch a manner, that they will fall with the leaſt touch and cruſh them. Another method is to lay a board driven full of iron hooks in the bear's tract, and near to that they place ſomething that eaſily falls down; this frightening the bear by its fall, he runs upon the board with greater force; and finding firſt one fore paw wounded and ſeized by the hooks, he endeavours to free himſelf by beating the board with the other; thus both being fixed, he reſts on his hinder legs, which cauſes the board to riſe before his eyes,

l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



224 eyes, and perplexes him in ſuch a manner that he falls in a fury and beats himſelf to death. The people about the rivers *Lena* and *Ilime* have ſtill a more odd way of catching them. They place a nooſe upon the bear's tract or entrance to his den, faſtened at the end to a large log of wood; when the bear finds himſelf entangled, and that the log hinders his walking eaſily, he takes it up, and carrying it to ſome precipice, he throws it down with great force, which dragging him after it bruiſes him very much: however, he continues this 'till in the end he kills himſelf. This laſt method is ſomewhat like that which the *Ruſſians* uſe to preſerve their honey from the bears. They hang ſuch a log at the end of a long ſtring upon thoſe trees where the bees are hived; and when the bear, climbing up to get at the hive, finds himſelf interrupted by the log, he ſhoves it away; but returning it ſtrikes him again, and obliges him to toſs it with greater force, which makes it revert with ſtill greater upon himſelf. He continues this ſport ſometimes until he is killed, or falls from the tree.

The making bears drunk and killing them, or hunting them with proper dogs, is ſo common that I have no occaſion to ſay more about it.

One method is yet to be mentioned, which I have heard from people of reputation; namely that one man will kill ſuch bears as a whole company would be afraid to attack, and that without any other inſtrument than a ſtilletto, ſharp pointed at both ends, faſtened to a thong. The thong he wraps about his right arm up to the elbow; and taking the ſtilletto in this hand, and the knife in his left, he advances upon the bear, who, as uſual, ſtanding upon his hinder legs, and opening his mouth, attacks the hunter: but he, with great reſolution and addreſs, thruſts his hand into his throat; and placing there the ſtilletto, not only prevents him from ſhutting his mouth, but alſo gives him ſuch exquiſite

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exquiſite pain that the bear can make no further reſiſtance, and allows the hunter to lead him wherever he pleaſes, or ſtab him with his knife, without any danger.

The *Kamtſchadales*, however, look upon it as an affair of ſuch conſequence to kill a bear, that whoever has this honour, is obliged to feaſt all his neighbours; at which entertainment the bear's fleſh is the principal diſh; and, as a trophy, the bones of the head and thighs are hung round about their huts.

Of the bears' ſkins they make their beds and coverings, caps, gloves, and collars for their dogs. The fleſh and fat are their moſt delicate food; and the fat, when melted, is thin, and might be very well uſed with ſallad. With the guts they cover their faces in ſummer to keep off the ſun: ſometimes they uſe their ſkins as ſhoe-ſoles, to prevent them from ſliding upon the ice; and with their ſhoulder-blade bones, made ſharp, they cut graſs.

From the month of *June* to the end of harveſt the bears are very fat; but in the ſpring they are lean and dry. In the ſtomachs of thoſe killed in the ſpring nothing is found but a frothy ſlime: whence the inhabitants maintain the general opinion, that the bear has no food throughout the whole winter, but ſupports himſelf by ſucking his paws.

Although, as has been related above, wolves abound in *Kamtſchatka*, and their furrs are in great eſteem for cloaths, yet few are caught there. They differ in nothing from the wolves that are found in other places. By their cunning and fierceneſs they do more hurt to the inhabitants than their furrs bring profit; for they kill not only the wild deer, but even herds of the tame, notwithſtanding the latter have always a watch. Their favourite morſels ſeem to be the tongues of the deer, or even of the whales that are thrown upon the ſhore: they ſometimes ſteal the hares and foxes out of the traps and ſnares. White wolves

l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



136 wolves are very ſeldom ſeen here, and therefore they are much
262 more eſteemed than the grey. Although the *Kamtſchadales*
237 are called univerſal eaters, yet they never eat the fleſh of either wolves or foxes. The deer and ſtone rams may be reckoned among the moſt uſeful of all the animals in *Kamtſchatka*, becauſe their ſkins are moſt uſed in cloathing. The inhabitants, however, kill but few in proportion to the great numbers that are in
136 this country. The deer live in moſſy places, and the wild rams
224 upon the higheſt mountains; ſo that the hunters of the wild rams
237 leave their dwellings in the beginning of harveſt, and taking all their families with them go to the hills, where they are employed in this chaſe until the month of *December*. The wild rams reſemble goats, but their hair is like the deers'. They have two horns that are twiſted round like the *Ordinſky* rams, but much larger. The horns of thoſe that are of full age weigh each of them from 25 to 30 pounds. They run very ſwiftly, throwing their horns back upon their ſhoulders; ſpring over rocks, and run upon the narrow ledges of the moſt dangerous precipices. Cloaths made of their ſkins are very warm. The fat upon their haunches is equal to that of the deer, and the fleſh is a moſt delicious food. Of the horns they make ladles, ſpoons, and other ſmall utenſils; and the horn entire they carry upon the road at their girdles, and uſe it for a bottle.

136 There are three kinds of rats; the firſt of which is of a brown colour, as large as the greateſt houſe-rats in *Europe*: but their cry is very different, reſembling the ſqueaking of pigs; otherwiſe they are very like our common rats. Of the ſecond kind there are but few, and theſe in the houſes, where they run about without fear, and live upon any offals. The third ſort have a diſpoſition ſomewhat like the drones among bees, laying up no manner of proviſion, but ſtealing their food from the firſt kind, which live in the fields, woods, and high mountains, in great numbers.

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



## CHAP. VII.

### *Of the* VITIMSKY SABLES, *and the Method of hunting them.*

ALTHOUGH the ſable-hunting of *Vitimſky* does not properly belong to the deſcription of *Kamtſchatka*, yet as in treating of the latter we have had occaſion to mention the ſable, I thought it might not be amiſs to give an account of the various methods of this chace in different places. The *Kamtſchadales* do not ſtir out for a fortnight or more after a piece of ill-luck, or having hunted one day without game; but the *Vitimſky* hunters ſpend almoſt the whole year in continual toil, and are very happy, if, in that time, they catch ten ſables for each man in company. It is true indeed, that ten common *Vitimſky* ſables are equal to forty of *Kamtſchatka*: but, notwithſtanding, if the inhabitants of *Kamtſchatka* would take the ſame pains as thoſe of *Vitimſky*, they might exceed them in the profits of hunting; for ſables are as numerous in *Kamtſchatka* as ſquirrels are upon the river *Lena*. The *Vitimſky* hunting is the more remarkable for being ſubject to many rigorous laws and ſuperſtitious obſervations, which the hunters bind themſelves to obſerve.

Before *Siberia* was conquered by the *Ruſſians*, it abounded with ſables; but, at preſent, wherever the *Ruſſians* are ſettled, none can be catched; for ſables retire at a diſtance from all inhabited places, and live in deſolate woods and mountains. The ſable hunters go up by the river *Vitime* and the two rivers *Mama*, which fall into that river, as far as to the lake *Oronne*, which is upon the right hand, as high and higher than the great cataract, where the beſt hunting is. The fineſt ſables are caught upon

6:Antropova E-4 (no date) 1964 RY3 Kamchadal RY3



north to the Nalachevaya River in the south. The second included Itel'mens living from the Nalachevaya River to Cape Lopatka, as well as the "Near Kurilers." The third group consisted of the Itel'mens of the western coast of the Kamchatka Peninsula (Sedanka-Khayryuzovo). The greatest differences were between the languages of the northern and southern groups. Of the dialects of the Itel'men language, only two have survived to our time—the Khayryuyuzovo and the Sedanka, which were strongly affected by Koryak and Russian.

The question of the origin of the Itel'mens remains open. The archeological remains on the peninsula have not been studied sufficiently. They are represented by semiunderground dwellings, which hold large quantities of neolithic stone implements: arrowheads, spears, hatchets, scrapers, blubber lamps, well-made bone objects and fragments of pottery. These are very close to the Itel'men implements of the 17th and 18th centuries. Similar stone and bone objects were found by the first explorers of Kamchatka—S. Krasheninnikov (1737–1742) and G. Steller (1740–44).

The first ethnographic data about the Itel'mens were provided by V. Atlasov, who made a journey to Kamchatka from the Anadyr' Fort in 1697, with a detachment of Cossacks and Yukagirs. Atlasov followed the western coast, almost to the southern tip of the peninsula, and collected the first fur-tax from the Itel'mens. He found the Itel'mens at the height of the neolithic technique in making stone and bone implements. His "tales" (reports) abound in ethnographic materials. They provide fairly detailed descriptions of the material culture (villages, dwellings, clothing, methods of preparing food, etc.), the geographic distribution, and individual features of clan organization. Especially interesting are Atlasov's data on pottery-making, for only 40 years later, S. Krasheninnikov found no traces of this occupation among the Itel'mens.

## Economy, Daily Life and Social Relations

Thanks to the remarkable work of Stepan Krasheninnikov, a participant in Bering's Second Kamchatka Expedition, we have a detailed account of the material production and social order of the Itel'mens in the first half of the 18th century, when they still retained their original culture.

They were fishermen who lived in permanent settlements along rivers. Their largest concentration was in the basin of the Kamchatka River. The main fishing season was during the salmon-run, when the fish surged upstream in dense masses to spawn. They fished with nets and hooks.

Nets were woven of nettle fiber. Fish was cured, made into yukola, and pickled in pits. Fish-heads were always pickled; this was a favorite dish.

The second important occupation of the Itel'mens was hunting. Kamchatka at that time was very rich in meat and fur animals. But fur animals were also hunted primarily for meat, since there was no market for the furs. V. Atlasov reported that the Itel'mens mixed chopped sable tails with the clay when making clay utensils.

An important role in the Itel'men economy was played by sea hunting. They hunted seal, fur-seal, and sea-beaver. The southern Itel'mens also hunted whales with arrows poisoned with plant poison.

None of the northern Siberian peoples engaged as widely as the Itel'mens in gathering wild plants. Most important in their diet were the tubers of sarana (a local name for various members of the lily family), sweet grass stems, the leaves of arnica, various berries, cedar nuts, etc. Plant tubers were dug out with a special digging implement of deer horn, tied to a wooden

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal



312 that if there be defects, they are aſcribable to me.

During our ſtay at theſe baths and at the oſtrog of Natchikin, our horſes had brought, at different times, the effects which we had left at Koriaki, and we began to make pre-
224 parations for our departure. In this interval I had an opportunity of ſeeing a ſable taken alive; the method was very ſingular, and may give ſome idea of the manner of hunting theſe animals.

At ſome diſtance from the baths, M. Kaſloff remarked a numerous flight of ravens, who all hovered over the ſame ſpot, ſkimming continually along the ground. The regular direction of their flight led us to ſuſpect that ſome prey attracted them. Theſe birds were in reality purſuing a ſable. We perceived it upon a birch-tree, ſurrounded by another flight of ravens, and

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal



224 we had immediately a ſimilar deſire of taking it. The quickeſt and ſureſt way would doubtleſs have been to have ſhot it; but our guns were at the village, and it was impoſſible to borrow one of the perſons who accompanied us, or indeed in the whole neighbourhood. A Kamtſchadale happily drew us from our embaraſſment, by undertaking to catch the ſable. He adopted the following method. He aſked us for a cord; we had none to give him but that which faſtened our horſes. While he was making a running knot, ſome dogs, trained to this chace, had ſurrounded the tree: the animal, intent upon watching them, either from fear, or natural ſtupidity, did not ſtir; and contented himſelf with ſtretching out his neck, when the cord was preſented to him. His head was twice in the nooſe, but the knot ſlipped. At length, the ſable having thrown himſelf upon the ground, the dogs flew to ſeize him; but he preſently freed him-

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal



224 himſelf, and with his claws and teeth laid hold of the noſe of one of the dogs, who had no reaſon to be pleaſed with his reception. As we were deſirous of taking the animal alive, we kept back the dogs; the ſable quitted immediately his hold, and ran up a tree, where, for the third time, the nooſe, which had been tied anew, was preſented to him; it was not till the fourth attempt that the Kamtſchadale ſucceeded *. I could not have imagined that an animal, who has ſo much the appearance of cunning, would have permitted himſelf to be caught in ſo ſtupid a manner, and would himſelf have placed his head in the ſnare
224 that was held up to him. This eaſy mode
433 of catching ſables, is a conſiderable reſource
651 to the Kamtſchadales, who are obliged to

* M. Kaſloff, who preſided in this chace, had the politeneſs to make me a preſent of this ſable, called in this country *ſobol*, and promiſed to add it to another, that I might bring a couple with me to France.

to

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal


535 825 whether their pantomime ballets were well executed; and they aſſured me that the dancers were the beſt in the country, and that the cries, gait, and various attitudes of the bear, were as accurate as life. Meanwhile, without offence to the amateurs, theſe dances are, in my opinion, not leſs fatiguing to the ſpectators than to the performers. It is a real pain to ſee them diſtort their hips, diſlocate every limb, and wear out their lungs, to expreſs the exceſs of pleaſure which they take in theſe ſtrange balls, which, I repeat it, reſemble the abſurd diverſions of ſavages: the Kamtſchadales may indeed, in many reſpects, be conſidered as of that rank.

224 Having given an account of the addreſs with which theſe people counterfeit the poſtures and motions of the bear, who may be called their dancing maſter, it may not be unpleaſing to relate in what manner they hunt

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal



224 hunt this animal. There are various modes of attacking it; ſometimes they lay ſnares for it: under a heavy trap, ſupported in the air by a ſcaffolding ſufficiently high, they place ſome kind of bait to attract the bear, and which he no ſooner ſmells and perceives, than he eagerly advances to devour; at the ſame time he ſhakes the feeble ſupport of the trap, which falls upon his neck, and puniſhes his voraciouſneſs by cruſhing his head, and frequently his whole body. In paſſing the woods I have ſeen them caught in this way; the trap is kept baited till it ſucceeds, which ſometimes does not happen for almoſt a year. This method of taking them requires no great boldneſs, or fatigue; but there is another mode, very much adopted in this country, to which equal ſtrength and cou-
224 rage are neceſſary. A Kamtſchadale goes
411 out, either alone or in company, to find a bear. He has no other arms than his gun,

a kind

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224/411 a kind of carabine whoſe but-end is very ſmall; a lance or ſpear; and his knife. His ſtock of proviſion is made up in a bundle containing about twenty fiſh. Thus lightly equipped, he penetrates into the thickeſt part of the woods, and every place that is likely to be the haunt of this animal. It is commonly in the briars, or among the ruſhes on the borders of lakes and rivers, that the Kamtſchadale poſts himſelf, and waits the approach of his adverſary with patience and intrepidity; if it be neceſſary, he will remain thus in ambuſcade for a whole week together, till the bear makes his appearance. The moment it comes within his reach, he fixes in the ground a forked ſtick* belonging to his gun, by means of which he takes a truer aim, and ſhoots with

* The Kamtſchadales are unable to ſhoot without this means of reſting their gun, which, from the time required to prepare it, is evidently inconſiſtent with the celerity of this inſtrument, its chief advantage to a ſportſman.

more

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224 more certainty. It is ſeldom that, with
411 the ſmalleſt ball, he does not ſtrike the bear either in the head, or near the ſhoulder, which is the tendereſt part. But he is obliged to charge again inſtantly, becauſe the bear, if the firſt ſhot has not diſabled him, runs* at the hunter, who has not always time for a ſecond ſhot. He has then recourſe to his lance, with which he quickly arms himſelf to contend with the beaſt, who
224 attacks him in his turn. His life is in dan-
825 ger† if he does not give the bear a mortal thruſt; and in ſuch combats, it may be ſup-

* It is common enough alſo for it to take to flight, notwithſtanding its wound, and conceal itſelf in thickets or ruſhes, where it is traced by means of its blood, and found either dead or expiring.

† I was aſſured that when a bear triumphs over his aggreſſor, he tears the ſkin from the ſkull, draws it over his face, and then leaves him; a mode of revenge which implies, according to the Kamtſchadales, that this animal cannot bear the human aſpect; and this ſtrange prejudice ſupports them in the opinion of their ſuperiority, and ſeems to inſpire them with additional courage.

poſed

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761 poſed the man is not always the conqueror;
224 but this does not prevent the inhabitants of this country from daily expoſing their lives; the frequent examples of the death of their countrymen has no effect upon them: indeed they never go out, without conſidering before hand that it is either to conquer or to die; and this ſevere alternative neither ſtops nor terrifies them*.

224 They hunt other animals nearly in the ſame manner, ſuch as rein deer, argali, or wild ſheep, called in Ruſſia *diki-barani*,

* They hunt the bear in this manner in every ſeaſon of the year, except when the country is covered with ſnow; their method is then different. It is known that in winter the bear retreats to the den which he has fabricated during ſummer of the branches of trees; he continues there while the froſt laſts, either aſleep, or licking his paws. The Kamtſchadales purſue him in their ſledges, and attack him with their dogs, who oblige him to defend himſelf: he ruſhes from his lurking place to certain death; if he refuſe to come out, his fate is equally certain, and he is cruſhed to death under the ruins of his den.

foxes,

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224 foxes, otters, beavers, ſables, hares*, &c.
261 but they have not the ſame dangers to encounter; ſometimes they make uſe of ſnares, conſtructed of wood or iron, leſs than thoſe which are ſet for bears, and reſembling in their ſimplicity our pitfalls; no other attention is neceſſary than that of viſiting them from time to time. The Kamtſchadales ſometimes lie in ambuſh, armed in the manner I have deſcribed; and the only hardſhip they experience reſults from their proviſion being exhauſted in conſequence of the long duration of their chace. They frequently ſubmit to ſuffer hunger for many days together, rather than quit their ſtations till they have obtained the end of their purſuit; but they amply repay themſelves for this faſting, by immediately devouring the fleſh of the animals †, and by the plea-

* Theſe animals are all deſcribed in Cook's voyage.

262. † The fleſh of bears, argali, and rain-deer, is conſidered by them as very wholeſome, the laſt particularly; I frequently feaſted upon it.

ſure

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224 ſure with which they count over the ſkins they obtain from them.

136 They chuſe for their chace the ſeaſons
224 when the fur of the animal is in its greateſt perfection. Sables are hunted in the beginning of winter. Theſe animals live commonly in trees, and are called after their name; a part of the fur neareſt the ſkin being of the ſame colour as thoſe which they moſt frequent, as the birch, the fir, &c.

The moſt favourable ſeaſons for hunting foxes are autumn, winter, and ſpring. There are four different ſpecies. 1. The whitiſh red fox, which is leaſt eſteemed. 2. The red or bright red fox. 3. The fox called *ſevadouſchka*, the colour of which is a mixture of red, black, and grey. 4. The black fox, which is the ſcarceſt and moſt valuable: it is really of a deep and entire black, except that at the extremity of the fur upon the

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136 the back, which is the longeſt; a grey tint
224 is ſometimes perceptible. Some of this ſpecies are ſingularly valuable. There are two other ſpecies of the fox that may be added to theſe, though they are not regarded as ſuch in this country, the blue fox and the white fox. They are called in Ruſſia *galouboy peſſets*, and *beloy peſſets*; their fur is thicker than that of the reſt of the ſpecies. The foxes of the continent are in general more beautiful than thoſe caught in the different iſlands of the eaſt*, and produce an infinitely higher price.

Rein-deer are hunted in winter, and argali in autumn. Otters are extremely ſcarce in this country; but there is a great abundance of ermines, though, I know not for what reaſon, no pains are taken to catch

* The Aleutienne iſlands, Schoumagine iſlands, Fox iſlands, &c.

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224 them; one would ſuppoſe they were of no value.

226 The Kamtſchadales have different ſeaſons alſo for fiſhing. Their ſalmon and trout ſeaſon is in June, their herring ſeaſon in May, and that of the ſea wolf in ſpring and ſummer, but principally in autumn.

They ſeldom uſe ſeines, but almoſt always common nets *, or a kind of harpoon, which they manage with great dexterity. Seines ſerve only for ſea wolves; they are made of leather ſtraps, and the meſhes are very large. They have another mode of fiſhing,

283 * Their nets are made of pack thread, like ours; they
314 purchaſe it of the Ruſſians: there is another kind however,
439 which they fabricate themſelves from nettles, of which they take care to lay up a conſiderable ſtore. They gather them in autumn, tie them in bundles, and place them under their balagans to dry. When their fiſhing and harveſts are compleated, they prepare their nettles. They ſlit them, and then ſtrip off the rind expertly with their teeth; the reſt they beat and ſhake till the filaments are ſeparated, and it is fit for ſpinning.

by

T:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal



797 177 rather than of proſelytes, and the gratification of their inordinate propenſity to drunkenneſs. It is not therefore to be wondered at that the inhabitants retain their ancient errors. They pay a ſecret homage to their god *Koutka**, and place in him ſo entire a confidence, that they addreſs their prayers excluſively to him when they are deſirous of obtaining any boon, or of engaging in any enterpriſe. When they go to the chace, they abſtain from waſhing themſelves, and are careful not to make the ſign of the croſs: they invoke their Koutka, and the firſt animal they catch is immediately ſacrificed to him. After this act of devotion they conceive that their chace will be ſucceſsful; on the contrary, if they were to croſs themſelves, they would deſpair of catching any thing. It is alſo a part of their ſuperſtition to conſecrate to

776 782 224 756

* This object of their worſhip is accurately deſcribed in Steller.

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000 load. The last string was in charge of our new man, who, overcome by the "damnable iteration" of a birch-forest, fell asleep and tumbled off his horse. In his fall, unfortunately, he dislodged some of the loose packs, which, swinging under the horse's belly, started it off at full speed. Dashing wildly forward the frightened animals caught the others in rear, upsetting Vodki and communicating the stampede to the whole line. We were at the time in thick forest, and plunging into this, our cavalcade rapidly disappeared in all directions, various ominous crackings alone revealing their line of progress. When separate individuals of a string try to pass on different sides of the same tree a startling effect is very often produced, but the old and experienced packhorse knows that better results may be obtained by the navigation of a three-foot passage between two birches. We found Ivan supporting his head in both hands, and proceeded to administer a lecture and surgical relief. Vodki, by the really masterly and exhaustive manner in which he was exhibiting the expletive richness of the Russian language, was evidently not in a condition to require attention. There is always, happily, a comical side to these affairs, which makes the traveller regard "the most disastrous chances" to his baggage with tolerable equanimity.

712 / R / 177 / .71 / 224 / 438 / 443 / 452 / 563

We pitched camp about twelve or fifteen miles from Narchiki, a little village that in bygone days was one of the palisaded *ostrogs* of the Russians; and though close to a pretty and most likely-looking stream, we were unable to catch any fish for supper, for the first and only time during our ride to the river.

In most bush countries it is the hunter's rule to see that the fire is extinguished, or at least rendered harmless, before breaking camp. In Kamschatka the greatest care is taken about this, as bush-fires invariably cause the sables to desert the neighbourhood for many miles around. As my readers are perhaps aware, the fur of this animal is the most valuable export of the country, and a very large proportion of the inhabitants are employed for the greater part of the year in sable-hunting only. The price obtained by the hunter

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224 for the skins varies very much if these be sold separately. But
438 generally the season's catch is disposed of *en masse*, and a fixed
443 price paid per head, whether good, bad, or indifferent. By far the
452 greater part of the trade lies in the hands of the individual I have
563 alluded to under his title of the King of Kamschatka. That he was by no means beloved of his subjects was abundantly evident, but his power was so great that but few were able, even if they dared, to shake off the hold he had upon them. As the owner of what was, practically, the only store in Petropaulovsky, the natives became easily indebted to him, their account for goods supplied being invariably in excess of the amount allowed for the furs brought for disposal. They are thus, we were informed, obliged to bring the catch of the following season to the same market, where, owing to the absence of competition, the prices are by no means high. If the corresponding profit upon the flour, cloth, and other goods sold be taken into consideration, it will be seen that, with a little capital and an elastic conscience, a fur-trader in Kamschatka ought not to do badly.

435 In St. Petersburg the price of a single sable-skin ranges from
563 £2 to £25. In Kamschatka the wretched peasant, living upon half-rotten fish and exposed to the rigours of a climate which, in its severity, surpasses that of almost every inhabited region of the world, receives, nominally, an average of sixteen roubles[1] per skin. In reality, as I have stated, he has to take out this value in
273 goods. He is wise if he does so, and can keep clear of the brandy,
435 which, in spite of the law which forbids its sale anywhere but
R in Petropaulovsky, has proved the ruin of so many of his country-
177 men.
.27 The price of other skins is generally settled individually. A fairly good bear's skin fetches about three or four roubles. It is only the very finest and largest that will bring as much as seven roubles. A river otter, if in good condition, is valued at the latter

[1] The Russian paper rouble is worth nearly half-a-crown; the silver rouble about three shillings and sixpence.

[see page 74--analyst]

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000 sewn together. They admitted enough light, however, to show us the strange mixture of ornament that hung upon the walls. In the corner was the usual tawdry *eikon*, and facing it, a long array of clippings from the "New York Police News," full of the choicest
262 horrors of battle, murder, and sudden death! Amid these lively
136 surroundings we consumed our sour milk and bilberries, and
224 bargained for some potatoes and turnips, which appeared to be
241 grown here in some abundance. Much, no doubt, might be done in the way of agriculture in many parts of the country were it not that the fish-harvest and hunting take up so much of the peasants' time. Of their success in the latter line we had evidence in a fine pair of horns of the Argali or Bighorn,[1] which lay outside the hut, and had only recently been shot. These animals, we were told, are not easily obtained at this season, and do not exist in any great numbers in the neighbourhood; but in the winter they descend to the lower spurs of the mountains, and are more easily brought to
000 bag. We much desired to obtain a head and skeleton of this sheep, but our limited time, and Afanasi's statement that we should be able to get them on the sea-coast about sixty miles to the eastward of Avatcha Bay, eventually decided us on relinquishing the idea of hunting them in this neighbourhood. We were pleased, however, to be able to prove their existence in the interior, which has by some previous writers been doubted.

We pursued our journey in a steady downpour of rain, our track leading through coarse grass and other annual vegetation so thick that from the back of a horse it was utterly impossible to see any trace whatever of the way. Our two hunters had donned their waterproofs,—long coats made from the intestine of the seal, carefully sewn together with sinew. These garments are tolerably strong in a thornless country, and though not ornamental, are as light as a feather, and most effectual in keeping out rain. We
133 passed to the south of some hot springs, about two versts distant from
515 the village, the water of which was said to be of such a temperature

[1] *Ovis nivicola*, Eschscholtz.

[i.e. Narchiki--analyst]

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136 this kind presents the only condition under which this sport is feasible, at least at this season. With the river choked with foul and dying fish, where every cast would foul-hook a fish that would be uneatable on landing, it is of course an impossibility. Here the stream was free from salmon, but though we hoped to obtain some trout or grayling, it seemed to be equally devoid of these also; and having spent an hour or two without getting a rise, we returned to camp. We found that one of our party who had been out after capercailzie had been fortunate enough to shoot a sable. The animal had been found by Verglaski, who had chased and treed it, and in spite of its not being, from a hunter's point of view, in full condition, it had been duly added to the bag. Our hunters told us that it was extremely rare to see sable at this time of year. The winter coat had begun to grow, and was, indeed, of tolerable
136 length and quite fast. In spring, although the winter fur may be
224 still on, the pelts are said to be quite useless, as the hair drops out even after the skin has been prepared. The animal measured twenty-seven inches in extreme length; the tail, which was not furnished with the thick brush so characteristic of the winter skins, seven inches; and the value of skin in the Petropaulovsky market was estimated by Afanasi at four roubles. The price given for winter sables is, as I have already stated, sixteen roubles.

The sable is always skinned from the tail—bag-shaped—and while performing this operation in the approved fashion of the country, we listened to a sermon on sables and sable-hunting from Afanasi. They are, he told us, for the most part of nocturnal habits, and, though they occasionally feed by day, generally spend that period of the twenty-four hours in holes at the roots, or in the trunks of trees. They dislike the presence of man, and are rarely to be found in the neighbourhood of the villages; their favourite resort being the depths of the forests least frequented by the natives. It is considered that the most inaccessible and least known parts of the country are the best hunting-grounds. They live on hares, birds of all kinds, and in short, almost any living

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136 thing they can kill, but they are also said to eat berries, and even
224 fish. There are, indeed, but few animals, apparently, which do not live on salmon in Kamschatka. They have only one litter during the year, generally in the month of April, and bring forth four or five young at a birth in a nest in the holes of trees. When the hunter is bitten for the first time by one of these animals, the bite is almost invariably followed by severe illness; but on subsequent occasions no ill effects, with the exception possibly of slight inflammation of the wound, are produced.

There are various methods employed in catching sables, but a less number are trapped now than used formerly to be the case. Dogs are almost invariably employed, to run them down in the deep snow or to tree them; and they are also smelt out by these trained animals in their holes at the roots of trees. The great object is to tree the sable if possible. The hunter then surrounds the base of the tree with nets, and either shakes down his quarry or knocks it off the boughs with sticks. If it does not fall into the net it is run down by the dogs, or compelled again to take refuge in a tree. Should the tree be too high for this method to be successful, it is cut down, or the sable is shot; but the hunters generally avoid the use of the gun if possible, as it is apt to spoil the skin.

The hunters usually start on their winter's expedition towards the end of September, if their destination be a distant one. If it be in better known country and closer at hand they wait until the first snows have fallen, and do not leave before the middle of November. They train dogs especially for the purpose, and a good sable dog is one of the most valuable of a Kamschatkan hunter's possessions. A catch of twenty sables in a season is considered exceptionally good. Jacof Ivanovitch and one of our horse-boys, in company with two other hunters, had on the preceding winter tried some new ground on the shores of the Kronotsky Lake, and had been particularly successful. Jacof had only succeeded in killing fifteen, but our horse-boy had bagged no less than forty; and the total

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Of the number of sables killed annually in Kamchata it is
224 difficult to form an estimate. The greater portion no doubt are
438 exported *vid* Petropaulovsky, this port draining the large extent
434 of country in the region of the Kamschatka River, but a good
563 many must find their way to Bolcheresk, and some others to Tigil, a settlement in the northern part of the peninsula which has only a difficult communication with the villages on the lower part of the Kamschatka. In Petropaulovsky almost all the skins pass through the hands of the "King of Kamschatka," and the number exported by him for the season of 1882 was over two thousand. The profit on each skin probably averaged at least forty shillings, and it must be allowed that, however gloomy the outlook in Hudson's Bay and elsewhere may be, there is at least one part of the world where the fur-trade is not "played out."

We left camp again on the morning of August 30th, and after two hours' travelling came to the little village of Puschina, if village indeed it can be called. It now appeared that Vodki's plan had been to get us on to this place if possible, partly because he preferred a hut to tent life in wet weather, and partly, according to
161 Afanasi, because he was afraid of the bears. Puschina consists of
177 three huts only, with the usual proportion of fish-drying sheds,
361 and boasts of a population of fifteen souls. In 1737, according to Lesseps, it was larger than Gunal. The inhabitants appeared dirty and miserable creatures, and were more of the true Kamschatdale type than any others we had yet come across. One or two of the huts or storehouses were raised above the ground on pillars, and much resembled a Norwegian *stabur* in appearance, except that there was a complete absence of carving. It is rare to see any settlement in Kamschatka which is not placed actually on the banks of a river, but Puschina, standing two or three hundred yards away, is one of the exceptions, probably owing to the fact that the banks of the stream are here very low, and the rise of the river during the period of the melting of the snows is often very considerable.

We rested our horses and obtained a draught of fresh milk

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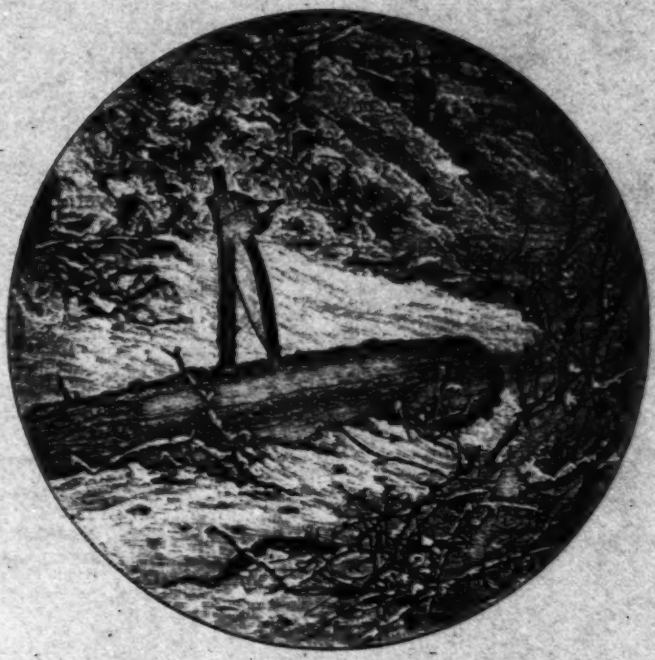
133 river, guarded on the right by Kojerevska, which is inferior to it in
361 altitude by fifteen hundred feet. To the extreme right lies Tolbatchinska, and above the intervening stretch of flat forest land the solitary peaks of the two isolated volcanoes I have before mentioned are visible some fifty miles away.

We had but little difficulty in getting the canoes requisite for

224



FOX TRAP.

constructing our raft upon somewhat less risky principles than the one that had, thanks to our good fortune, borne us the last seventy miles of our journey in safety. We reverted once more to our old plan of dividing forces, and late in the morning recommenced our voyage amid the firing of many salutes from the guns of the Kojerevskans, to whom we were really sorry to have to
000 bid adieu. At 4 P.M. we reached Uskovska, a hamlet containing

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At 4 P.M. we reached Uskovska, a hamlet containing
224 thirty souls only. Landing to rest, we noticed here, for the first
361 time, a fox trap of simple construction, which is said nevertheless to be very effective. A broad mortice is cut in an ordinary rough log, and in the longitudinal hole thus produced a spring is placed, composed of two pieces of raw hide twisted together, which impels a barbed prong. This is discharged by means of a trigger, to which a string is attached leading across the animal's usual track. Although Kamschatka is a country which would appear to be peculiarly adapted for trapping, it seemed to us that it was not undertaken to anything like the extent that might be expected.

000 We camped eighteen versts below Uskovska, in good spirits at the improved condition of our affairs and our rate of progress down the river. We had need of them, for after dinner, on inspecting our last case of photographic plates, which had been packed with all possible care in blankets, we found that the greater number of them had been broken to atoms. Such are the results of pack-horse travelling! Of the whole lot but two remained, and these, with one or two we had left over from another case, were all we had to last us for the rest of our journey! It was a cruel disappointment. We were in the midst of scenery which for magnificence was almost without parallel, and which we could never have a hope of seeing again. For some days the volcanoes, which at this season of the year are often invisible, had shown themselves without a cloud. And now, just as we were approaching them, and arriving at the very part of our journey of which we most desired to have a record, we were doomed to failure—a failure the harder to be borne from the fact that our limited time precluded any possibility of sketching.

It was blowing hard from the W.S.W. as we embarked at daylight on the following morning, and before long the wind had freshened considerably. The thermometer was not lower than usual, but the keen wind penetrated our garments and froze us to the bone. It was in our favour, and hoisting a portion of one of the tents as a sail, we sped along merrily. Soon, however, it became evident

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136 Since leaving Kluchi we had spent a good deal of time in trying to obtain a specimen of Pallas's Northern Sea Eagle (*Thalassaëtus pelagicus*)—a species which, at this part of the river, is by no means uncommon. It is a magnificent bird, and is especially conspicuous from the large white shoulder-patches and tail, but owing to its shyness it is extremely difficult to approach. We were, unfortunately, not provided with a rook rifle, and the few long shots we obtained were unsuccessful. Once only did we get a bird fairly within shot, and the two barrels of No. 2 that he received at a distance of thirty yards seemed to have no effect whatever upon him. This eagle appears to be chiefly confined to the lower part of the Kamschatka River, for we did not meet with it before reaching the neighbourhood of the great volcanoes.

226 252 262 The natives are prevented by law from barring the river in the lower part of its course, and here the salmon are taken chiefly with seine and drift nets. The V-shaped curral-trap of stakes, with baskets on the lobster-pot principle, is also frequently seen; a system which, as I have already stated, is used to bar the river right across at Melcova. The fat of the Kisuchi salmon is regarded as a great delicacy, and is prepared in considerable quantities at this season. A canoe is filled with water, and a number of the fish placed in it. Into this large red-hot stones are dropped, thus boiling the contents, which are meanwhile constantly stirred. The fat is then removed as it rises to the surface.

133 224 The low and muddy shores of the river in this part of its course are in many places intersected with small creeks, at the mouths of which two tall poles may often be noticed. These are used for taking ducks at flight time, by a plan which is not uncommon in other parts of the world. A fine net is hung between the two poles, which the hunter lets fall as the birds fly against it. By this means we were told that large numbers are often caught.

000 We woke on the morning of September 15th to a most miser-

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501 or three boats invariably proceed in company when engaged in
133 hunting the sea-otter, and that during heavy weather they
361 lash them together with the paddles, by which means even a moderate gale can be safely encountered.

The natives piloted us into a small bay which, protected as it was by an island[1] and a long reef running out from the mainland, afforded fairly good shelter in all winds. At the head of it stood the village, almost invisible at a little distance, composed entirely of underground yourts, whose smoke-begrimed interiors were not inviting to a European.
224 We had hoped to find many skins of the sea-otter here, but
411 were disappointed, the whole village only producing two; we became possessors, however, of what, though less valuable, was of more interest,—the bow and arrows with which these animals are killed. The former is a tough piece of wood five or six feet in length, which is enormously strengthened by a band of plaited hide on the outer face, so tightly fixed as to give the bow when unstrung a curve in the opposite direction. The arrows are of wood for three-quarters of their length, fitted with feathers attached diagonally along the shaft, so as to produce a rotatory motion. The remaining portion is of walrus ivory, provided at the end with a socket, into which a barbed copper point is inserted. This is connected to the arrow by a long string of plaited sinew wound around the shaft. When the otter is hit, the barb, which is very loose, becomes at once detached, and if the animal gain the sea, its whereabouts is revealed by the arrow floating above it.

501 The canoes used by these people are of extremely graceful shape, and so light that they can be lifted in one hand with ease. They are constructed of a wooden skeleton

SEA-OTTER ARROW.

[1] This island, which is not marked in the chart, was named by us after Lieut. R. ff. Powell. It is in Lat. 51° 33′ N., Long. 157° 50′ E., and is about two miles in length. The coast at this part is placed too far to the eastward.

24: Lansdell-639 [2] M-2 ( 1879 ) 1882 Kamchadal
116, 177, 224, 771, 777, 784

" They have given up, to a large extent, their Shamanism, though they still take care, when hunting an animal, not to pronounce its name, lest they should be visited by ill luck."

27: Sauer--302 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
116, 133, 224, 484

"The Ilmitsh, commonly called the Paratounca, has its rise from near the Viluitshiskoi Sopka (called in Cook's last voyage the Paratounca); and from a lake near the Tareinskoi harbour, it makes a circuit of 85 versts, and discharges itself into the bay of Avatsha, only three miles in a direct line from its source: it is navigable for boats all the way; but I was fourteen hours in traversing the whole of this river, from the lake, in a canoe. The villagers of Paratounca go on the chase of deer, argali, bears, &c. about the source of this river, by passing down the stream into Tareinski harbour, and hauling their canoes over the plain already mentioned into the lake. An immense number of rivulets from the mountains flow to the east into the ocean, but none of them are either remarkable, or have their banks inhabited."

28: Sarytschew--60 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal
116, 136, 224

"At the entrance of the bay of Awatska, we passed a light-house, erected on a lofty rocky prominence, on the left of which was an insular mountain of stone, called Staritschkow, after the name of a bird that frequents it in great abundance. The staritschkow is a bird about the size of a pigeon, with a bluish bill, and small feathers, of a bristly kind; its head is of a purple colour, having a circle of white feathers in the middle, which are thinner and longer than the rest. Its neck is black above, with white spots underneath. Its body is white, the short large feathers of its wings blackish, and the rest blue; its sides and tail black; its feet red, and trebly indigited with a web between each, and its claws black. On the little islands of Kamtschatka they are found in vast numbers, and are caught by the Kamtschadales with great facility. Besides this bird, there are also sea-parrots, mews, and urilas, the latter of which paid us a visit of curiosity as before, and then disappeared."